

# The Drum

Delivering the  
Multicultural Message  
Monthly

Nebraska Department of Education

January 2009



The civil rights movement in the United States was one of the most memorable and powerful movements in history. Thousands risked and even lost their lives to bring a better future to others. History time lines concentrates in the 1950s and 1960s. Civil rights began hundreds of years before this historic movement. Far before Rosa was brave to sit on the bus. Far before Cesar Chavez united the immigrant and Asian workers. Far before Brown v. Board of Education or Dr. King.

Civil rights movements during the late 1800's and early 1900s' provided the foundations. The Thirteenth Amendment (1865) abolished slavery. Fourteenth Amendment's intent was to prevent discrimination by State governments. Jim Crow laws of 1890 set for "separate but equal" facilities. Our question is now, who and how do we interpret these laws? The supremacist groups grew. And in 2009, we continue the journey.

**"There are those who say to you - we are rushing this issue of civil rights. I say we are 172 years late."** *Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat National Convention, July 1948*



Chief Stand Bear \* Samuel Brannan \* Cesar Chavez \* Dr. Martin Luther King

## Civil Rights Month



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*That's what he was saying, the civil rights movement - judge me for my character, not how black my skin is, not how yellow my skin is, how short I am, how tall or fat or thin; It's by my character." Pam Grier*

## *What civil rights gave to you....*

The Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project has collected oral histories of 70 civil rights activities.



Pedro Acevez, a math and science teacher, shares his memories of the Chicano Movement.



Belle Alexander was one of the first African Americans to work for Boeing Aircraft.



Ramona Bennett, former Chairwoman of the Puyallup Tribe and founder of Rainbow Youth and Family Services.

Visit <http://depts.washington.edu/civilr>

## *The Voices*

An interactive educational website for all ages. Explore the timeline of civil rights from 1868 to the present. Engulf yourself in the photos, a few set to music that is strikingly rich with story. Learn how civil rights impacted the arena of sports.

AARP, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Library of Congress has collected and preserved personal stories and oral histories of the Civil Rights Movement. This collection is the world's largest.

Visit [www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org)

## *Mississippi adopts Civil Rights Curriculum*

Mississippi will be the first state to adopt into legislature, mandatory Civil Rights curriculum for all k-12 students.

Adopted in 2006 and in the final framework stages, the law states, "This education should lead learners to understand and appreciate issues such as social justice, power relations, diversity, mutual respect and civic engagement."

Many states, including Nebraska, have adopted some structure of multicultural education into their standards and/or curriculum. Nebraska's ruling can be found at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/mce>.

### HISTORY UNCOVERED

ABC-CLIO's Annual History Research Competition



ABC-CLIO, an award-winning publisher of history reference and research resources in print and online, welcomes you to the first annual *History Uncovered* competition. It's a unique opportunity for teams of secondary school students, their social studies teachers, and school library media specialists to participate in a meaningful competitive endeavor that emphasizes research skills along with historical and critical thinking. As we kick off 2009, history is already in the making. The groundbreaking inauguration of president-elect Barack Obama on January 20th is an example of the many pivotal moments in history that can launch your research!

**Get Your Teams Together. Get the Details! Get Going on Your Entry!**

[Entry Information](#)

### [Legacy Project: Listen to A Life](#)

The Legacy Project Listen to A Life Contest connects generations through oral history. To enter, a young person must interview an older person about his or her hopes and goals throughout life, how he/she achieved goals and overcame obstacles, or how his/her dreams may have changed along the way. The young person then writes a 300-word essay based on the interview. Maximum award: a Lenovo ThinkCentre, iPod Classic, and \$800 worth of Orchard Software; young person's school receives \$25,000 worth of Orchard Software. Eligibility: each team must consist of a young person 8-18 years and a grandparent or grandfriend 50 years or over (co-entrant cannot be a parent; he or she can be a grandparent, older friend, mentor, neighbor, nursing home resident, etc.) Deadline: March 30, 2009. <http://www.legacyproject.org/contests/ital.html>

#### **Native American Congressional Internship**

**Program.** Ten week summer internship Washington, D.C. for Native and Alaska Native undergraduate, graduate and law students  
**Application Deadline: January 30, 2009**  
Students are placed in Congressional offices, committees, or select agencies to experience an insider's view of the federal government and learn more about the federal government's trust relationship with tribes. The Udall Foundation provides round-trip airfare, housing, and per diem, and a \$1,200 educational stipend.

#### **Career in Tribal Health or Tribal Public Policy**

scholarship program for college sophomore and juniors. **Application Deadline: March 3, 2009**

Merit-based \$5,000 scholarship for those seeking a career in tribal health, tribal public policy or the environment. Five-day orientation in Tucson, AZ is required to learn more about tribal and environmental issues. Application **MUST** be submitted through a UDAL Faculty Representative or at the student's college/university.



**Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award.** Eligibility: middle/school-school earth science teachers. Maximum award: \$500 classroom improvement funds. **Deadline: February 1, 2009.** <http://www.nagt.org/nagt/programs/oest.html>

**ING: Unsung Heroes Awards.** Innovative and progressive thinking in education. Eligibility: full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals or classified staff members with projects that improve student learning. Grade Level: K-12. **Deadline: April 30, 2009.** <http://www.ing-usa.com>

## Crete Public Schools recognized nationally

Crete Public Schools is featured in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's December Success Stories newsletter and in the January 2009 NEA Today for their work with ELL students and families.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation is a program that supports "inspiring solutions that improve health & wellness in schools around the country." As part of its Healthy Schools Program, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation celebrates the efforts and achievements of its members. In the newsletter, you will read about innovative and inspiring success stories happening in schools all across the country. What a great way to find out what schools across the country are doing to promote health and wellness in their staff and students.

Article link: [www.healthiergeneration.org/schools](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/schools) title "Shaking Up the A La Carte Line"

The NEA Today article takes on some tough issues relating to immigration and how one of our Nebraska schools is working with children and families. It is set up in a Myth/Fact format regarding issues that schools and communities face. What a great way to showcase how a local school is successfully working to educate all students!

Article link: <http://www.nea.org/home/29160.htm>

### Historical Dates

*January-National Yours, Mine, Our Months; Volunteer Blood Donor Month and March of Dimes Month*

- January 15* Martin Luther King, Jr., advocate of civil rights and Nobel Peace Prize. Born 1929.
- January 17* Hector P. Garcia, Mexican American and former U.S. Ambassador, born 1914.
- January 17* Paul Cuffe, African American philanthropist, born 1759.
- January 18* Dr. Daniel H. Williams, African American who performed the first successful open heart surgery, born 1858.
- January 20* the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) founded, 1920.
- January 23* Gertrude Elison, born 1918, chemist and pharmacologist, 1988 Nobel Prize for Medicine. She is also the first women in the National Inventors Hall of Fame.
- January 24* Maria Tallchief, Native American ballerina, born 1925.
- January 25* Charles Curtis, Kaw Indian, Vice President of the United States under President Herbert Hoover, born 1860.
- January 26* Condoleezza Rice become the first female African American U.S. Secretary of State, 2005.
- January 31* Jackie Robinson, First African American major league baseball player, born 1919.
- January 31* 13th Amendment passes (Abolition of Slavery) 1865.

*February-African American Month*

- February 1* National Free Day established 1949, commemorates the abolishment of slavery in 1865.
- February 2* Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War of 1848.
- February 3* Elizabeth Blackwell, nation's first woman doctor, born 1821.
- February 3* 15th Amendment passes giving African Americans the right to vote, 1870.
- February 4* Rosa Parks, African American woman whose courage ignited the Montgomery Bus Boycott, born 1913.
- February 5* Henry "Hank" Aaron, African American athlete, broke many baseball records, including Babe Ruth's 714 home run records in 1974, born 1934.
- February 6* Arthur Ashe, first African American to win the U.S. David Cup (tennis), died 1993.
- February 11* First U.S. Treaty signed with the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, 1794.
- February 14* Race Relations Day-Designated by the National Council of churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations, 1973.



A recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health analyzed more than 100 scientific articles on the relationship between nutrition and learning and came to the common-sense conclusion that the link between breakfast and student achievement is huge, The Boston Globe writes. "Impact of School Breakfast on Children's Health and Learning" cites far-ranging benefits of breakfast consumption: increased attendance, higher standardized test scores and grades, decreased classroom disruptions, and fewer trips to the nurse. "In terms of producing good outcomes for kids, it's hard to find a better investment than the school breakfast program," said J. Larry Brown, a senior author of the report. Those who ignore the benefits of school breakfasts, which are designed to meet federal nutrition standards and guard against obesity and diabetes, incur a heavy hidden cost, the researchers warn. America's annual bill for illness and lost productivity from hunger is approximately \$90 billion, \$10 billion of which is related to educational troubles. Despite this, while almost 18 million low-income children nationally received free or reduced-price school lunches, only about 8 million of them also participate in the marked-down breakfast program.

Read more: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/01/04/on\\_the\\_table/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/01/04/on_the_table/)

See also: [http://www.sodexofoundation.org/hunger\\_us/Images/Impact%20of%20School%20Breakfast%20Study\\_tcm150-212606.pdf](http://www.sodexofoundation.org/hunger_us/Images/Impact%20of%20School%20Breakfast%20Study_tcm150-212606.pdf)



For many children, their school lunch will be the most important meal of their day. Children depend upon their warm school lunch for 1/3 to 1/2 of their nutritional intake. Healthy diets help children grow, develop, and do well in school. Thus, the intent of the National School Lunch Program is that all children receive a daily, warm, healthy meal that meets approved nutritional requirements.



## What's in your wallet

### Financial education gains traction

Across Virginia, students are learning financial skills in school that might help them avoid problems their parents currently face. Educators are teaching the difference between pre- and post-tax pay, foreclosures' effects on property values, and how to balance a checkbook, set a budget, and differentiate between credit and debit cards. Advocates say this kind of education is crucial in a world of increasing economic complexity, with many pitfalls and far fewer safety nets. Since 2005, reports The Washington Post, students in Virginia have been required to understand various types of

investments and savings, study insurance policies and how taxes work, and go through a simulated loan-application process. "I wish I had learned this when I was their age," said Julie Carreiro, a math teacher in a Virginia middle school. "I got into some credit-card debt when I was in college." Proponents say the financial instruction in her school and others in Virginia and nationally can have a major impact on our national economic literacy, going forward.

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### Developing early literacy

"What we have to do...is find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities."

Hillary Clinton

Learning to read and write opens doors to progress and prosperity across a lifetime. The years before kindergarten are a particularly fertile and profitable time to prepare young children to read and learn by teaching them essential literacy skills. The challenge of helping all children become successful readers requires early teaching, using home and school instruction built upon proven research and effective practices. This is the message being delivered as the National Institute for Literacy releases findings from, "Developing Early Literacy: Report of the National Early Literacy Panel, A Scientific Synthesis of Early Literacy Development and Implications for Intervention." The National Early Literacy Panel's (NELP) report serves as the basis of several powerful, research-based recommendations to the early childhood community --educators, caregivers, Head Start providers, and parents -- on promoting the foundational skills of life-long literacy. Some of the key findings of the report reveal the best early predictors of literacy, which include alphabet

## Minority children lag behind in Nebraska

This story was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on January 13, 2009. Written by Journal reporter Erin Anderson, she compared minority youth and the disproportionate numbers for low-income, poorer health and education opportunities. As a state Nebraska appears "good" on the Kids Count Data Report. Break that down more into county regions, many of our youth are not experiencing the "good life."

The articles states "while one in 10 white children live in poverty more than half of all black and native children live in poverty and 28 percent of Hispanic children are impoverished."

[Read entire article](#)

[Kids Count Data Report](#)

Minority youth between the ages of 16-19 are neither studying or working. Wrote "when teens are neither in school nor employed, they are disconnected from the roles and relationships that set most young people on pathways toward productive adult lives."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Shore, Rima, Shore, The Annie E. Casey Foundation,](#)  
*Reducing the Number of Disconnected Youth*

### Probation

Youth of color are less likely to be placed on probation. A breakdown by race among the 5,842 juveniles on probation in 2007:

White -- 65.73 percent  
Black -- 15.27 percent  
Native -- 2.57 percent  
Hispanic -- 16 percent  
Asian -- .74 percent

### Imprisoned

Youth of color are more likely than white youth to be incarcerated as adults. In 2007, a breakdown of youth younger than 18 incarcerated in adult prisons:

White -- 19 percent  
Black -- 38 percent  
Native -- 15 percent  
Asian -- 0 percent  
Hispanic -- 26 percent

### Foster care

Minority children make up 22.4 percent of Nebraska's 19 and younger population. However, they represented 40.73 percent of children in foster care in 2007. A breakdown for 2007:

White -- 58.6 percent  
Black -- 18.4 percent  
Hispanic -- 9.6 percent  
Native -- 6.7 percent  
Multi-racial -- 1.9 percent

Black and Native youth are more likely to experience more foster care placements than white children. 2007 rates for youth experiencing 10 or more foster care placements:

Native -- 25 percent  
Black -- 20 percent  
White -- 16 percent  
Hispanic -- 15 percent

Source: Kids Count in Nebraska, 2008 report



# Explore these teaching aids



We have explored the internet again and found some great teaching aids. Each “find” is hyperlinked to directly take you to the website. Sign up for free snippets at <http://snippurl.com>.

## [Goal Setting for Students](#)

Articles for teachers and parents.

## [American History Face to Face](#)

Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery from White House trivia, hip hop, 1930s War of the Worlds and more.

## [Math: Fun Ways to Teach Statistics](#)

Middle school level can work on statistics in real-world situations. Look at the activities and projects pages at this site for materials designed to engage this age level.

## [Dealing with Homework](#)

Read the chapter and download it like over 4,600 have. How important is homework. How much is too much? How often? Is there a purpose?

## [Student Can Do Hard Things](#)

What can our students possibly learn if we only gave them easy tasks? How can we motivate our students to accept a challenge if they doubt their ability? This is a snippet from the book entitled, “Students Behave When Teachers Engage”.

## [Activities to Promote Content Literacy](#)

This brochure has been downloaded of their site thousands of times. It provides a set of strategic teaching techniques that help teachers across the curriculum promote literacy skills in their content areas. It’s just part of a literacy toolkit compiled by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

## [Parents from Mars, Teachers from Venus](#)

Originally appeared in Education Week, Bill Ferriter a sixth grade teacher explains the complex relationship between parents and teachers.

## Have a Family Story Telling Night at Your School

*Fantastic resource to bring to your school.*

The program enhances positive family involvement as it leaves each family with a “living book”. Engross the families with history, heritage and culture as parents tell “true stories.”

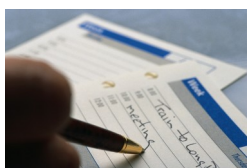
Learn more at

[www.familyStoryTellingNight.org](http://www.familyStoryTellingNight.org)





*Success is not a destination, it's the direction in which you are traveling. Zig Ziegler*



### Native American Advisory Council Meetings

Wayne State College  
Student Activities Center  
February 3 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
April 14 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Chadron State College  
North Platte Room  
February 12 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
March 31 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Check our website for any  
changes.

This report is from the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University. It examines an often underexplored phenomenon—absenteeism in early grades. The study examines what contributes to excused or unexcused absences and how this affects the achievement gap in later years. The article in its entirety can be found at [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_837.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_837.pdf)

### *Present, Engaged, and Accounted For* *The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*

Hedy N. Chang, September 2008

(from the introduction).....students have to be present and engaged in order to learn. We can work together early on.....or we can pay later for failing to intervene....

### *Diplomas for (Would-Be) Dropouts: Project Learning Serves the Most At-Risk Students*

Interesting article found at [edutopia](http://www.edutopia.org) (The George Lucas Educational Foundation). A “continuation” high school in California, Downtown serves the most at-risk students in the district. Students with high truancy, lack of credits, early parenthood and prior incarceration, all factors of early drop-out.

Curriculum is entirely project based and thematic. It engages students to find connections with items in the real world.

Article can be found at <http://www.edutopia.org/at-risk-students-project-learning>

Boosting Student Achievement through High  
Quality Professional Development

29th Annual Nebraska Excellence in  
Education Conference  
April 21-22, 2009

Holiday Inn Downtown, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Full agenda and presenter information available online  
[www.nde.state.ne.us/cspd/conference](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/cspd/conference)



April 17-19, 2009 \* Norman, Oklahoma\*

Register and information at  
[www.indianeducation.org/conference](http://www.indianeducation.org/conference)

\* date/location change



#### CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The National Forum on Dropout Prevention Strategies for Native and Tribal Communities. Deadline: February 27, 2009 for proposal submission.

**April 19-22, 2009  
Phoenix, Arizona**

Forms, agenda, and more information can be found at [www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org) (scroll

#### College Board Announcements

**Preparate: Educating Latinos for the Future of America** brings together education professionals from across the country seeking to increase Latino students' access to and success in higher education.

April 23-24, 2009; Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Early bird registration ends **February 15**. Learn more at [www.collegeboard.com/preparate](http://www.collegeboard.com/preparate).

**The Native American Student Advocacy Institute: Building Nations through Education** provides opportunities for collaboration and partnership to ensure postsecondary access and achievement for Native American, Alaska Native and Hawaiian students.

May 18-19, 2009; University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Early bird registration ends **March 16**. Learn more at [www.collegeboard.com/nasai](http://www.collegeboard.com/nasai).

**A Dream Deferred™: The Future of African American Education** convenes education and community leaders to address the most critical issues facing African American students.

May 21-22, 2009; Westin Los Angeles Airport, Los Angeles, California. Early bird registration ends **March 16**. Learn more at [www.collegeboard.com/dreamdeferred](http://www.collegeboard.com/dreamdeferred).

#### A Framework for Understanding Poverty Workshop

Ruby Payne Series

April 7-8, 2009 New Orleans, LA  
<http://www.ahaprocess.com>

**Register early, the fill up very fast**

*Designed for Title I, Special Education, Administrators, Social Workers, Staff Development, Counselors and Teachers*



June 10-12, 2009  
Elkhorn Public Schools  
Elkhorn Ridge Middle School

Information forthcoming—**SAVE THE DATE**

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[www.nde.state.ne.us/MCE](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/MCE)

#### Nebraska Department of Education Announces

[Statewide writing results for 2007-2008](#)  
[State of the Schools Report for 2007-2008](#)



February edition of *The Drum* to offer more educational resources and classroom activities.